

The Official Magazine of The Church of God in Christ

The Whole Truth

July / August 1997

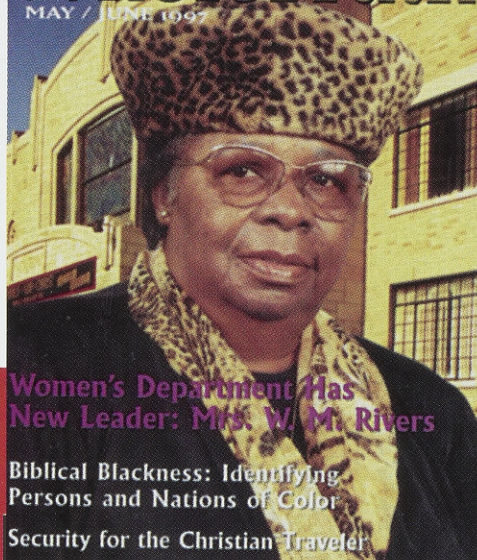
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**MOTHER Elsie Shaw: LEGENDARY PRAYER
WARRIOR COMPLETES Life's JOURNEY**

**Philadelphia...HOSTS WOMEN'S
CONVENTION**

THE MOTHER OF ALL SINS
by DAVID WILKERSON

The Official Magazine of The Church of God in Christ
The Whole Truth
 MAY / JUNE 1997



**Women's Department Has
 New Leader: Mrs. W. M. Rivers**

**Biblical Blackness: Identifying
 Persons and Nations of Color**
Security for the Christian Traveler



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**VISION 2000
 and BEYOND**

**CLINTON ATTENDS
 CONVENTION**

OWNERSHIP

**TERNS FOR MEN AND
 CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

**FORERUNNER TO
 HOLINESS**

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH



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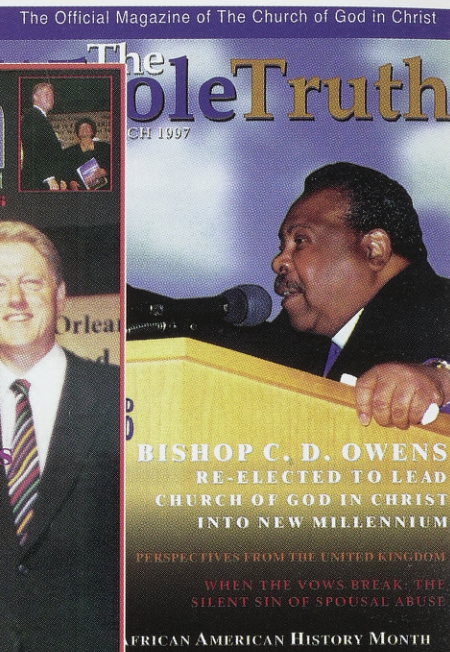
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**BISHOP C. D. OWENS
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 CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
 INTO NEW MILLENNIUM**

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THE WHOLE TRUTH MAGAZINE

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MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of **The Whole Truth Magazine** to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of COGIC members; and, literary contributions by COGIC members. **The Whole Truth Magazine** shall endeavor to effect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resource of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE INVITED!

The publisher, editor and staff of the magazine encourage talented writers to submit articles for publication. Letters to the editor are also encouraged. Your comments and suggestions for improvement will be appreciated.

Questions concerning subscriptions should be directed to Christie Taylor or Van McGowan at (800) 451 - 6610. Advertisement information can be obtained through Superintendent Brandon Porter at (901) 526 - 1591.

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You may also contact Ms. Wesley by telephone at (615) 353 - 5825 or by fax at (615) 356 - 1208. Please print or type your submissions for publication. Not all submissions will be selected for publication. We regret, due to the volume of mail we receive, that we are unable to return photos. When submitting photos for publication, please send quality reprints (preferably color).



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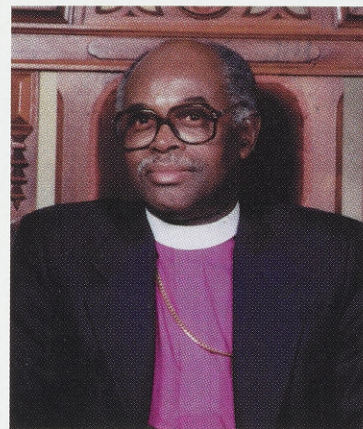
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"The Lord gave the word:
great was the company of those
that published it." -PSALM 68:11



Dear Subscriber,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. As President of the Publishing Board, I would like to tell you how thankful I am that you have chosen to subscribe to the Church of God in Christ's premier magazine - The Whole Truth. Over the past year, The Whole Truth has grown from a 4-page newsletter into a glossy magazine; however, with this change we have experienced some trial and error. For this I want to personally extend by sincere apologies.

As we bring The Whole Truth into the 21st century, we will continue to make additional changes in the content and appearance of the magazine. Our goal is to publish a Christian magazine filled with information and inspiration that will aid in creating a greater sense of community among the churches and members of the Church of God in Christ.

In addition to making changes to the magazine, we have recently selected Elder Brandon B. Porter, who serves as the National Director of Public Relations, to be the Marketing Director of The Whole Truth magazine. The newly staffed marketing department, under his leadership, will oversee circulation and advertising. This should enable us to serve you, the subscriber, in a more timely and professional manner.

I truly hope the changes we have made and will make will create a quality magazine and bring about excellent customer service to you. Once again, thank you for being a subscriber and for your continued support.

In His Service,

Bishop Norman Quick
President of the Publishing Board
Church of God in Christ

The Whole Truth

July/August 1997

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VOLUME 2, No. 3

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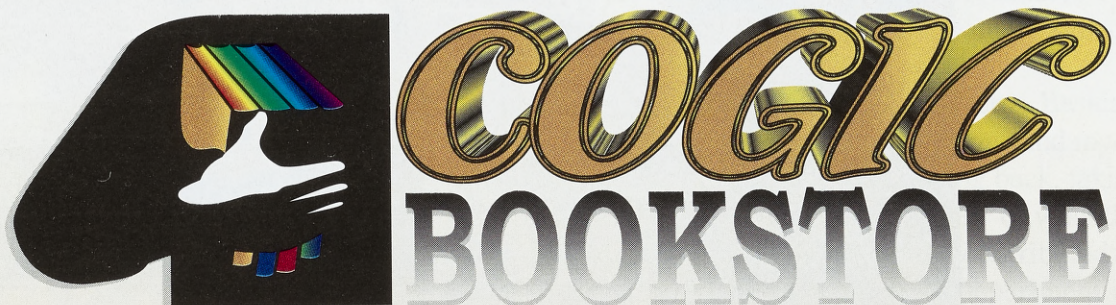
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Circulation Statement • The **Whole Truth** Magazine (USPS No. 780340) is published bi-monthly for the annual subscription rate of \$25.00. Canadian subscribers add \$9.00 per year, & Foreign countries add \$20.00 per year, payable in advance in U. S. currency only. Published by the Church of God in Christ, Inc. • 272 South Main St. • Memphis, TN 38103. Periodical Postage rate paid at Memphis, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to • The **Whole Truth** Magazine • P. O. Box 2017 • Memphis, TN 38101 • For additional subscription information or to subscribe, call 1 (800) 451-6610 or write: The **Whole Truth** Magazine • P. O. 2017 • Memphis, TN 38101



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Philadelphia: **HISTORIC CITY HOSTS** *Historic Women's Convention*

The International Women's Convention (IWC) of the Church of God in Christ was born during a time of explosive growth of religious and social activism among church women.

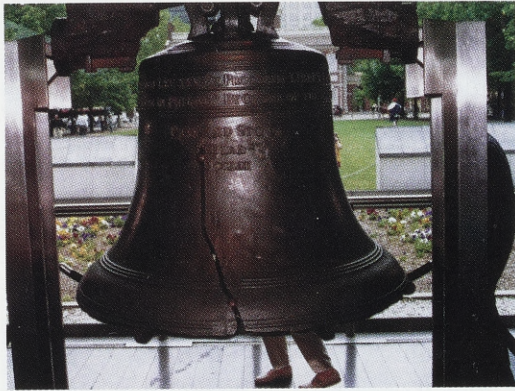
The central truths about the IWC - that it is one of the premier religious women's conventions in America and the women of the Church of God in Christ have kept it "going on," were brought to bear this spring. Thousands from across America and around the

world descended upon Philadelphia for a time of spiritual refreshing and renewal. In her virgin flight as president of the International Women's Convention and taking the helm of the Department of Women, Mother Willie Mae Rivers accepted the torch of her predecessors and showed herself very able to lead the women on to greater victory.

According to those in attendance, the convention centered on the

work of the Holy Spirit and how the women can effectuate change in their communities. Mother Rivers' forte as an organizer propelled the well-organized executive team to make for a satisfying week.

The following post-convention interview offers those who were unable to travel to Philadelphia insight into the workings of the convention. The IWC hopes that other women will be inspired to begin now to prepare to meet



them in Kansas City for the 1998 convention.

TWT: Mother Rivers, you have presided over your first International Women's Convention. Tell our readers what your expectations were going into the meeting.

Mother Rivers: I had a little fear, maybe that's not the word...concern maybe...since it was my first as leader. Yet, I had faith in the Lord that He would answer my prayers. I felt that the Lord was going to see me through. He favored the convention mightily. I encouraged myself that I knew that the prayer I was sending up to the Lord and the prayer that was conducted by Mother Shaw (would strengthen me).... Then you know what happened... Mother Shaw was called to rest from her labors.

Mother Shaw was only the instrument. He was the one that did the job. The Lord did confirm that. It was just wonderful, powerful. Other than her (actually) being there, we didn't miss the powerful prayer sessions.

Mother Frances Kelly was endowed with His spirit and she picked up the spirit of Mother Shaw. The prayer ministry was

really great. The saints made the prayer each morning as if Mother Shaw was there. Bishop Clemmons was excellent. After a day or so, my spirit relaxed and I knew He was in control.

I had some little concerns and hoped that the convention would not be any less than what it had been. I feel restful in my spirit that the convention went smoothly.

TWT: What were the attendance figures for the convention this year?

Mother Rivers: The auditorium on the floor level was set up for 13,000 and we nearly filled that the very first day. The night service went up into the bleachers...over 15,000.

TWT: What were the convention's theme and scriptural references?

Mother Rivers: The theme was "COGIC Women Looking Back With Praise, Moving Forward With Hope." The Scriptures were Lamentations 3: 21 - 22; Psalm 71:14; and, Psalm 145: 3 - 4. Our focus was "Reclaiming a Generation at Risk."

TWT: What were some of the highlights?

Mother Rivers: For me, several testimonies of God's deliverance and working miracles. (Also), there were several testimonies of how God worked miracles for some of them to get to the convention.

TWT: What was the theme of your official address. Give us some of the main points.

Mother Rivers: Basically, I used the same theme and my focus was upon looking back, taking a retrospective view of what the pioneer mothers contributed to the Women's Department. When we see their faith, their loyalty, their financial (contributions), their dedication to worship, their respect to leadership and their strength and determination even to work through difficult times. That gives us no reason not to praise the Lord. Eventhough some of the women came through difficult times, they left us a great legacy.

My challenge is that if we are going to move forward, we will need strength. Isaiah 51 and 52 tell us to put on strength as in ancient times. I challenged the women...to teach the young people of today...to teach them how to be faithful, how to be loyal, how to take on their responsibility in ministry.

Isaiah 51:9 says "Awake, put on strength." Isaiah 52:2 says "Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion. I challenged the ladies that it was time to wake up and put on strength. Some of our ladies may be discouraged, have fear, be guilty of negligence and slothfulness. They were encouraged to put on strength and move forward. The same God who was with our predecessors in the past

(is with us) in our 100th year celebration. If we're going to be successful, we have to go back and pick up the principles of holiness. We were a special people and our calling was to show forth His praise.

The auxiliaries will be revived and retrieved: the working of the auxiliaries are designed for ministries, not just fundraising. The previous mothers laid the foundational work and I pray that God will give me the wisdom and strength to take this ministry of auxiliaries and units to an even higher level.

TWT: How many of national women's leaders attended the Pre-International Women's Convention conference? Now that you are the General Supervisor, who will chair the conference?

Mother Rivers: There were more than 800 women who attended. I think I will always be the coordinator, but I will use other ladies and reach for different talents for awhile. Mother Elizabeth Crooms from Jacksonville, Florida, did a marvelous job this year.

TWT: Presiding Bishop Chandler Owens was present on Friday night. Were many General Board members there to observe and enjoy the convention?

Mother Rivers: Bishop Owens inspired and encouraged the International Women's Convention, as he always does. In his unique way, he admonished

us to praise and worship the Lord.

Most of the General Board members (and other national leaders) were there. I can't think of anyone who wasn't there. We were very pleased to have the host of bishops and General Board members. Bishop Owens did commend us for a good convention.

TWT: Our magazine is read by



both COGIC and non-COGIC Christians all over the world. Through this forum, what would you like to tell (all) women about the International Women's Convention?

Mother Rivers: It's a convention that teaches about ministries. It's educational, teaching women how to perform in ministries in the church and various areas. We have about 28 or more auxiliaries that are designed for ministry, especially (to) younger women.

(The International Women's Convention) is for inspiration, information, edification and training our future leaders. What is taught during the women's convention is a booster for women to go back to their local churches. That's really the bottom line. If we don't build strong local churches, the national church won't be what it should be.

TWT: Have you begun to tour the brotherhood?

Mother Rivers: I want to (conduct) seminars and workshops and encourage the women in general. I want to (observe) what the women are doing, giving them suggestions and plans and programs for their work. For the rest of this year, (that is my goal). Beginning in 1998, we will begin our official tour.

TWT: Will you attend the All African Conference in September? If so, what will be your message to your daughters in Europe and Africa?

Mother Rivers: I will go in as an observer to see what they're doing and whatever I can do to inject COGIC women's ministry. I want to encourage them in the work. If there is any need, I want to be able to help.

TWT: Is there anything you want to add about strengthening the bands and auxiliaries? About current Women's Department issues?

Mother Rivers: There is a great need to strengthen the areas of



Downtown Philadelphia

church mothers and chairpersons of the Department of Women. I want to give them direction to continue their ministries. I also want as many women as possible to prepare for the 1998 convention in Kansas City.

OTHER VOICES...

Mother Elizabeth Nash, Assistant General Supervisor for the Department of Women is uniquely poised to give perspective on the International Women's Convention. She was a hospitality worker for the first Women's Convention in 1951. She remembers when the train landed in Los Angeles' Union Station with Mother Lillian Brooks Coffey. "The saints had on white dresses, had baskets of fruit (mostly oranges because California was known for oranges). The first dinner was held in a home (the delegates stayed in homes because we could not stay in hotels). The red cards were \$100. The first time they carried money to the bank, it

was carried in brown shopping bags." Mother Nash has never missed buying a red card since.

According to Mother Nash, "This International Women's Convention was the best convention we've ever had....The Lord favored the convention highly....There was so much love...(it was) a spirit-filled convention."

One of her favorite times was the pre-convention leadership conference. The topic "What Makes A Leader" spoke directly to issues which concerned the women gathered. "We are yet talking about Mother Miller and Mother Walker's demonstration of the habit. So many women were confused about when and where the habits were to be worn by the evangelists and state supervisors.

Mother Barbara McCoo Lewis, State Supervisor of California First Jurisdiction, says that "...up tempo delegate conversations in the hallways and

elevators drove home the point that there is a spirit of hope for progress." She contributes this to Mother Rivers' vision and focus.

Mother Lewis is the newly appointed fourth international marshal following in the historic line of Dr. Arenia Mallory, Mother Deborah Patterson and Mother Willie Mae Rivers.

Mother Lewis, along with other executive women, feel that the younger women should begin to get involved in the work of the International Women's Convention. Her advice to younger women who want to work in the church is "Find a mentor...whether it's (someone) on the local, district or state level. We all start on the local level. We don't seek to shine on the state level if we don't work in the local. Spend as much time as you can with that individual. Our pioneer women absolutely delight in sharing past experiences, their history, and their wisdom."

Women everywhere can assist the great work of the Department of women by lifting Mother Rivers and the executive women of the church up in prayer. They are also cautioned to follow leadership. Says Mother McCoo Lewis, "Not just in word, but in modeling the leadership of the church....as Mother Crouch used to say all the time, if we can just stay in our lane, we can do our best. Excellence is a habit. It's just not something that you do when you feel like it."

Mother W. M. Rivers
JOINS LEGACY of
WOMEN LEADERS



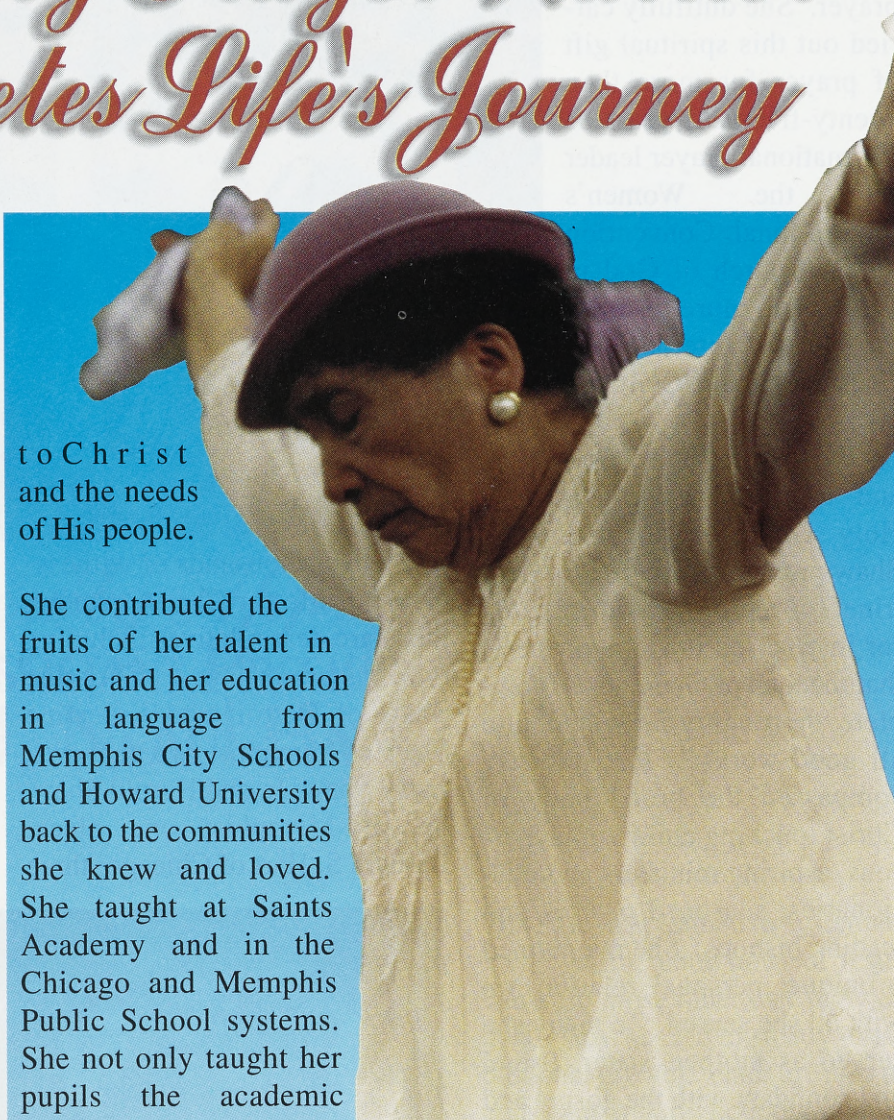
Legendary Prayer Warrior Completes Life's Journey

The Lord allowed the life of Evangelist Elsie Isabelle Shaw to begin April 6, 1915. She was the second of four children given to the union of Albert Sidney and Pinkney Johnson Shaw. As the only daughter among three siblings, Harry, Lawrence, and Alfred, she learned early in life the meaning of faithfulness and service in leadership as she eventually became the matriarch, the anchor on which generations of her family frequently relied.

She accepted Christ as her savior and was filled with the "Holy Ghost" over sixty (60) years ago under the pastorate of Bishop O. M. Kelly of New York. These were the prime years of founder Bishop Charles Mason. Her very existence soon became predicated on an incomparable dedication

to Christ
and the needs
of His people.

She contributed the fruits of her talent in music and her education in language from Memphis City Schools and Howard University back to the communities she knew and loved. She taught at Saints Academy and in the Chicago and Memphis Public School systems. She not only taught her pupils the academic



Mother Elsie Shaw

basics, she also instructed on the fundamental principles of decent living.

Service was her calling. She cheerfully would serve the saints as a food service worker for what was then a twenty (20) day convocation, providing some of the only meals available in the days of segregation. It was after God's training for service, that she received the calling to evangelize for the edification of the Lord's church and his people. For over



The Presiding Bishop in eulogizing Mother Shaw said "We all learned from her...to pray the way she prayed."

forty-one (41) years as a missionary evangelist, she emphasized the power of prayer. She dutifully carried out this spiritual gift of prayer for more than twenty-five (25) years as international prayer leader for the Women's International Convention of the Church of God in Christ, and more recently for the International Convocation of COGIC.

By the inspiration of God and the leading of the Holy Ghost, Evangelist Shaw proved "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Her ministry compassed the broad body of Christ touching children, laypersons, aspiring ministers and missionaries, seasoned pastors and leading bishops. She maintained a unique, personal relationship with all she served. To many she served as mother, sister, friend and confidant with the gospel and the love of Christ.

On May 26, 1997 - obedient until the end - the Lord allowed her life to end as swiftly as she lived it. She was taken as she prepared to travel to the Women's International Convention. She lived everyday in Him and her strength was not abated. From Haiti to Houston, Detroit to Dayton, Memphis to Manhattan, North Carolina to California, she gave glory to God and sought to do what was pleasing in His sight.



Right to Left : Mother Elise Shaw (in 1995) with Mother W. M. Rivers (in Memphis)

She leaves thousands of witnesses to her life for Christ. Among those are dear relatives including two sisters-in-law. Christine Shaw of Detroit and Ernestine Shaw of Memphis; two nephews, Larry Shaw, Jr. and Harold Shaw, Sr. of Memphis; one niece, Barbara S. Hart of Chicago; three

thou hast learned and hast been assured of knowing of whom thou hast learned them. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteous-



The mantle of prayer 'leadership' for the Women's Department fell on Evangelist Frances Kelly (far-right)

great nephews, Harold Shaw, Jr., Larry Shaw, III and RaMon Shaw of Memphis; seven great nieces, Helen Shaw, Kimberly S. Brisco and Ingrid S. Boyle of Memphis, Stephanie H. Reames and Shanda H. Stuart of Chicago, Omega

ness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (II Timothy 3:14, 4:6-8)

Friday and Katrina Shaw of Detroit. Among her many dear friends were Mother Elsie W. Mason; Mrs. Ceneta Qualls; her pastor, Bishop and his wife Mrs. Samuel Smith of Memphis; and Marcia Bonner and family of Dayton.

Among her favorite scriptural passages was:

"But continue thou in the things which



Newly Appointed FIRST ASSISTANT PRESIDING BISHOP J. NEAUL HAYNES

by Glenda Williams Goodson

Leader Celebrates 20 Years as Jurisdictional Prelate of Texas Northeast Jurisdiction

Twenty years ago, Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, leader of the Northeast Texas Church of God in Christ, had a simple dream: to continue the legacy his father, Bishop F. L. Haynes, and to ensure that the rapidly growing work of the prototypical church mushroomed into exponential growth in northeast Texas.

Segue to 1997. From the initial 200 churches he inherited, the rapid growth to 500 churches triggered the birth of two additional burgeoning jurisdictions. Equally important, Bishop Haynes has risen through ecclesiastical ranks:

first to the role of serving on the General Board in the 1980's, later becoming the Board's secretary. In early 1997 he was appointed as the First Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ.

During a recent informal session, Bishop Haynes shared his desire to see that churches he oversees continue to expand into inner city and urban areas. Stating that these areas are largely forgotten by the mainstream, his goal is for the church to continue to make a positive difference in the lives of African American, Hispanic and all in need of spiritual re-awakening. Recent innovative measures include the institution of S.W.A.T. (Soul Winning Across

Town) teams, trained to systematically get the good news of Jesus Christ to those inner city individuals. This has led to steady jurisdictional growth. Plans are also to construct a jurisdictional multi-service facility to offer cutting edge services to COGIC affiliated teens and youth and house the jurisdiction's human resources department. This will include a help desk to streamline counseling, financial operations and missions.

Bishop Haynes is married to Vivian King Haynes. They have two daughters, Vrai Haynes Morris, an accountant and renowned singer Pia Haynes Williams.

TWT

Centennial Highlights



COGIC's Living Legends Series: *An Interview with Mother Elsie Mason*

*As a special feature for our year-long Centennial Celebration, **The Whole Truth** shares with readers a reprint of a special interview with Mother Elsie Mason (Heritage Edition 1995).*

Mother Elsie Mason, widow of the COGIC founder, consented to a special interview. Mother Mason was delightful. A former school teacher and lifelong member of the COGIC, she was remarkably intelligent and articulate.

The Whole Truth: Did Bishop Mason ever express what he considered the original vision or mission of the Church of God in Christ?

Mother Mason: He mainly talked about finding the will of God and obeying it. He did not have a personal plan for the church; he was solely concerned with what God wanted to accomplish through those who yielded to Him.

The Whole Truth: What role did he feel women should play in the church?

Mother Mason: He gave the women the privilege to do whatever they wanted, as long as they had a scripture to back up what they wanted to do.

The Whole Truth: What did Bishop Mason see as the Church's responsibility to youth?

Centennial Highlights

Mother Mason: He left the youth department in the hands of Bishop O. T. Jones, but anything they wanted to do, as long as they had a scripture to back them up, it was okay. Of course, he felt it was important for the youth to be trained in the church.

The Whole Truth: What do you think the greatest moment or highlight of his life and ministry was?

Mother Mason: Bishop Mason did not have "special moments." He often said that all of God's time was great...that each (blessing) was a stepping stone to something greater.

The Whole Truth: Were there low points in his life or ministry, any disappointing times?

Mother Mason: None. He always said God never disappointed him....

The Whole Truth: Did he express any regrets about the things he suffered for the church - the jailings and other trials?

Mother Mason: No. He did not express any regrets about any of the things he suffered.

The Whole Truth: Did he ever say why he felt God chose him to found the Church of God in Christ?

Mother Mason: No. He would just say that he was an instrument used of God.

The Whole Truth: Having

known and observed him as your pastor, husband and founder of our great church, do you think he is acknowledged in his rightful place as a great 20th Century leader in the same category as Martin Luther King...?

Mother Mason: That kind of thing never mattered to him. He taught us to think of him as just a man...a man God used for (God's) purposes....I always thought of him as a man of God and used of God. He didn't think of himself as anyone special; he would say that all souls belong to God.

The Whole Truth: How did you meet him?

Mother Mason: I am a lifelong member of the COGIC. My mother was among the earliest COGIC members. He was my pastor at Temple Church of God in Christ. I never imagined I would marry him.

The Whole Truth: Where are you from originally? Were you once a school teacher?

Mother Mason: I am a native of Memphis. I taught school (there) in the city schools...the third grade.... I also taught high school at Saints Academy. My work has always been about the church.

The Whole Truth: Who was closest to Bishop Mason among his many followers?

Mother Mason: Well, the seven Bishops who made up his

Executive Board: Jones, Crouch, Kelly, Bailey, McEwen, Miller and Patterson.

The Whole Truth: Did any of them travel with him?

Mother Mason: No. I was the one who traveled with him.

The Whole Truth: What was it like sharing in the ministry with Bishop Mason?

Mother Mason: I traveled with him all across America and into foreign lands. We attended the World Pentecostal Conference in London, England. We toured the Holy Land. He really enjoyed it. He enjoyed traveling...especially by airplane. He was amazed by airplane travel and was without any fear...even if the airplane was in a storm. He was always calm.

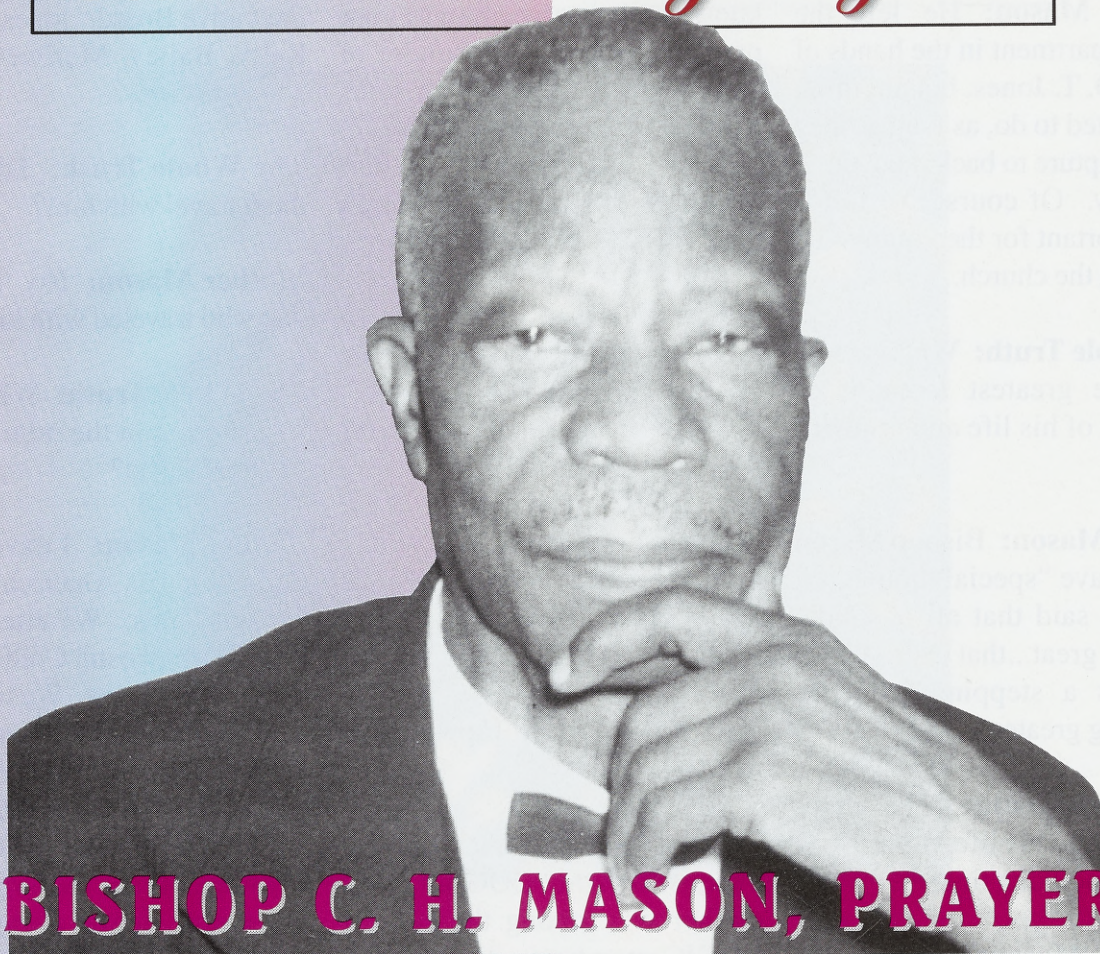
The Whole Truth: At the time of his death, had he completed all that he had wanted to do?

Mother Mason: Yes. He was ready to go.

The Whole Truth: What advice would he give to COGIC leaders today?

Mother Mason: He would point to those things regarding the soon coming of Jesus. He would tell them to be ready when He comes, for He's coming soon. That time is nearer now than it was then.

Centennial Highlights



BISHOP C. H. MASON, PRAYER

We thank you, Lord, for the day here, and your word in the heart. Deliver men from the hands of the evil one, and let children be faithful, saying "yes" to God. Keep their hearts anointed with fresh oil, sending the latter rain of thy will. Gather us together in Thy wonder and let us walk by faith.

In our wills Thou art God of the nations; no more are we giving away to death, but we arise to live again.

Let Thy way be in the assembly and Thy healing power be confirmed. Death! Death! thou art rebuked. In our wills, the Lord is God all day, and our thoughts are directed to Him. Thank God for the day of the Lord coming to us in the Holy Ghost.

Let Thy Spirit work in our innermost being and the sweet communion of Christ keep us, for Thou art drawing us to the fountain of eternal life.

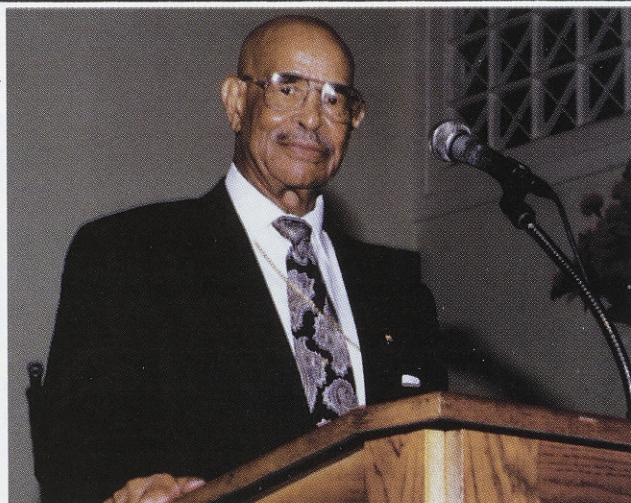
Thank God for the 'now' living, and for Thy Spirit quickening us, the light of Thy word in our minds.

Death! death! thou art rebuked! Christ lives within. His blood heals.

Lord, we thank Thee for the love of God and the power of witness to the nations. Watch more, my little ones, for God is gathering and coming nearer again. "Christ, the word abounding...."

TWIT

Centennial Highlights



Bishop A. T. Moore: Consummate Churchman

COGIC's Living Legends Series:

Bishop A. T. Moore *Kentucky: Jurisdictional Bishop* Appointed by **Bishop Mason Still Active**

One visit to Moore Temple Church of God in Christ in Louisville gives one a sense of "the early church" (of God in Christ), of "how it used to be during Dad Mason's day." Bishop A. T. Moore knew Bishop C. H. Mason well. He (Moore) is among only three (3) bishops, yet living, who were appointed by our late founder. The other two are Bishops G. E. Vaughn of Pittsburgh and Lawrence of Memphis. Among those three, Bishop Moore remains as the only active jurisdictional prelate.

Bishop Moore shared some interesting and cherished experiences he had with 'Dad' Mason - experiences such as meeting Bishop Mason while he (Moore) was a young man in the 1930's. "I attended my first National Convocation in Memphis in 1933.

(I only missed in 1947 during a flood in Louisville.) I was amazed that Bishop Mason took time out and talked with me. As a young man, I was in awe that he conversed with me inside of Mason Temple and had me walking with him to the women's dormitory building next door to the Temple...." It was the beginning of a long association. In subsequent years, Bishop Mason would make innumerable trips to Louisville, very often dropping by Bishop Moore's local church or surprising Bishop Moore by visiting his state conventions. "He very seldom preached when he came by...but he always prayed for the people...laying hands on them. There would always be healings and people were delivered from many things."

Among some of his fondest memo-

ries: Bishop Mason's love for and fascination with a natural spring fountain in Louisville from which water poured. "Bishop Mason loved that water and always had me to take him there to get a drink of water....Once he called just before National Convocation and said, "Make sure you bring me a gallon of that water."

Another precious memory: Bishop Mason's love for unusual things in nature. Bishop Moore has a familiar picture of Bishop Mason holding unusually shaped branches. "People would find anything unusual or odd shaped and take it to Dad Mason. He would examine it and see a certain shape or formation that looked like an animal or a cloud or anything.... He would get a message or sermon from it...drawing parallels from such

Centennial Highlights



Moore Temple COGIC in Louisville, KY

things as the nature of a deer and a man or a sinner..."

Bishop Moore describes himself as old fashioned and traditional, one who holds many of the things that the church emphasized in the earlier days: shut-ins, fasting, much prayer, devotional services on Sunday mornings and each service. Said Moore, "Among the things that led to our rapid growth were our devotional services, testimony services. In other, larger churches, from other denominations, people went there; listened to sermons and big choirs; read their responsive readings and prayers.... In our services, the people had a chance to express themselves in their personal testimonies and singing their own songs. Many would leave the bigger churches and join us."

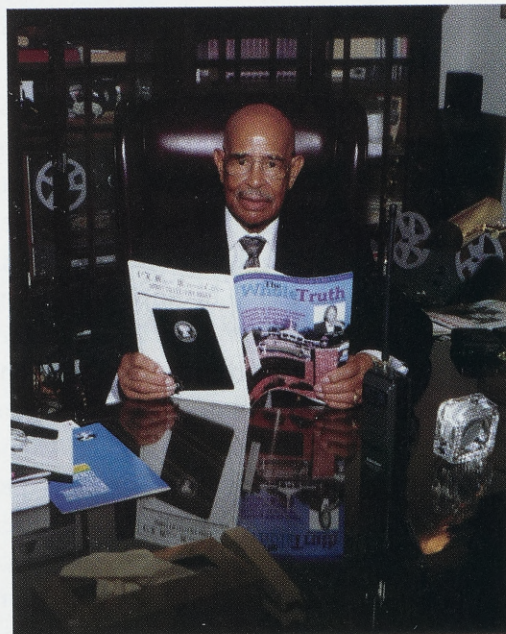
Although Bishop Moore humbly suggests he's traditional, his success stems from a wonderful anointing that pervades the worship services at Moore Temple. His congregation is replete with children, teens, young adults, the middle aged and the more

mature saints. There are choirs - a boys' choir, a young adult choir, a youth choir. There is an accomplished group of musicians...a band, with saxophonists, drummers, electric keyboard organists, the traditional hammond organ and guitarists.

The respect and appreciation members of Moore Temple hold for their eighty-five (85) year old pastor is inspiring. Bishop Moore is very alert, very anointed and very much in charge. On Sunday mornings, cameras are everywhere, a professional photographer moves about capturing special moments for posterity. A large studio-like television camera glides about, recording the congregation's fervent worship. A cameraman with a small video camera roves around quietly capturing close-ups. Two reel-to-reel tape recorders capture stereophonic sound of everything going on. These things - cameras, and tape recorders - are a part of Bishop Moore's legacy. "I fell in love with electronics in the 1940's.

I was responsible for recording the services during the convocations. I have audio and video footage of Dad Mason, Mother Lillian Brooks Coffey, Bishop Riley Williams, so many of the pioneers. At one time I just enjoyed history. Now I realize its value." (The C. H. Mason history video that the Publishing Board produced has footage of Dad Mason supplied by Bishop Moore.)

Longevity is also his legacy...Bishop Moore celebrates fifty (50) years in July as the leader of Kentucky First Jurisdiction. His jurisdiction consists of over thirty churches. The pastors and congregations are eagerly awaiting an historical convocation. For fifty-seven (57) years, Moore has served the same local congregation. He was married for fifty years to the same



Bishop A.T. Moore: Relaxes in his office with a copy of The Whole Truth

woman, Rosie Lee Cobb-Moore, until her death in 1989.



THE HEALTHY TEMPLE

Weapon Against Sickness & Disease? Conventional vs. Naturopathic Medicine

by DR. DANIEL PHELPS

It is important to understand clearly, the essential differences in philosophy between conventional medicine and its counterpart: naturopathic medicine. In conventional medicine, diagnosis and treatment resemble war; practitioners speak heroically of the "war on cancer," or of "combating disease." It is a well-known fact that conventional medicine works best when it is able to focus on a specific target and destroy it. This target, the basis of modern medicine, is a specific pathogenic actor. It could be bacteria, virus, cancer,

or organ malfunction. The pathogenic factor becomes the enemy, and subsequent therapy is designed to kill, remove, or otherwise dispose of it, usually with drugs or surgical procedures as its fundamental ammunition.

Mainstream medicine is based on a concept of the body as an inert chemical laboratory where illness is treated by administering chemicals, repairing broken parts, or replacing worn out ones. Conventional medicine typically fails when a precise

etiology cannot be found.

In contrast, the language of naturopathic medicine is filled with more peaceful terms: "harmony", "resonance", "nurturing", "balancing", and "building". Naturopathic medicine is a holistic approach that works in conjunction with the natural recuperative powers of the body. It views disease as a symptom of unhealthy elements in your lifestyle. A poor diet, too much stress, lack of exercise, and uneducated behavior which puts your body in what we call a state of toxemia.

Special Features

The famous scientist Louis Pasteur, often considered the father of germ theory, pronounced that the germ is nothing-but the terrain is everything. Just what did Pasteur mean by this statement? He meant that germs cannot invade healthy matter. Germs require an unhealthy environment and thrive in decaying matter.

Naturopathic medicine views the body as a whole and studies the relationship of symptoms as patterns, rather than isolated problems. We have seen patients with multiple symptoms who have been shuffled from specialist to specialist without result, only to respond dramatically to holistic therapy. It is unfortunate that the majority of such people are totally unaware of the preventive aspects of naturopathic medicine. With these medicines, it is possible to treat disharmonies while they are still energy disturbances, before they reach the stage of tissue pathology that conventional medicine treats. Thus, the person who seeks medical attention for fatigue, headaches, or other vague symptoms, where the M.D. cannot find anything wrong, will often find that he responds well to naturopathic medicine. There is no need to wait for an energetical disorder to develop into a pathological tissue disorder to benefit from such treatment.

Nevertheless, we should emphasize that naturopathic medicine does not exclude conventional medicine. Our doctor uses laboratory reports and the full complement of conventional medical procedures to evaluate patients. In our practice, we work directly with medical doctors. When it is

warranted, we refer patients to specialists and surgeons; the vast majority of our patients, however, come to us after conventional medicine has failed. In taking a person's case history, we devote more time and attention to understanding "the whole picture" than our allopathic counterpart. Patients respond well to the sympathetic interest shown towards all of their problems. They are often amazed at the depth of the interview and the interest of the holistic doctor to details usually overlooked or ignored by conventional doctors. It is a comfort to realize that the doctors interest goes beyond their chief complaint. The intent is to help with the minor problems as well, because naturopathic medicine evokes the body as a whole (Body, Mind, Spirit) to heal.

Scientific evidence continues to mount in support of naturopathic medicine and other alternative forms of treatment. Experts predict that American Medicine is poised for dramatic change. In 1992 the National Institutes of Health (NIH) established an office of Alternative Medicine to explore the potential benefits of naturopathic medicine and other alternatives to conventional medical care.


Medical schools are also coming around; even Harvard Medical School is joining the rank of institutions offering courses on so-called unorthodox medicine. Many holistic physicians have N.D. (Doctor of Naturopathy Medicine) degrees from a licensed medical school of naturopathic medicine in the United States and Europe.

A January 1993 study in the New England Journal of Medicine reported that more than 34 percent of all Americans have used some form of alternative medicine. Clearly, Americans are seeking a more humane and less invasive approach than that of standard medical doctors. According to Dr. Joe Jacobs, M.D., director of the N.I.H. Office of Alternative Medicine, "some of these alternative therapies take an holistic and more caring view of a patient." This holistic attitude is an important foundation of Naturopathic Medicine.


A helpful place to contact for further information is the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, (its governing body, which tests for competency); P. O. Box 20386, Seattle, WA 98102; telephone: (206) 323-7610). For now at least, patients will most likely have to pick up the typical \$45-75 per-treatment tab themselves. Only six states mandate that insurers cover naturopathic medicine or other alternative medicine care. The beacons that the industry typically follow, medicare and medicaid, have no plans now to stop being stingy.

Elder Daniel Phelps is a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine(N.D.) and also a Ph.D. candidate. He is an ordained COGIC Minister and founder of The Center on Family Living in Michigan.

TWT



Biblical Blackness: Identifying Persons *and* Nations of Color ...



by SCOTT A. BRADLEY

(PART II)

For centuries, Black people were told that they were cursed! According to legend, Noah's sons were different races: Black, White and (we were never told what the third was supposed to be). Supposedly, Noah cursed his Negro son, Ham, to servitude of his other brothers, one of whom was white, and hence justified the superiority/inferiority dogma. This religious ideology was preached and believed by White Christians, particularly during the

era of slavery, to justify racism. This religious thought was still prevalent in Christianity as recently as the 1960's. During the Civil Rights era, many used "the curse" to justify segregation. This belief is still touted by such white supremacist groups as the Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis, Skinheads and others.

What is interesting to note is the origin of such thought. It was actually started by Arab Muslims in the

8th century. Following their conquest and enslavement of the North Africans, the Arab Muslims told their captives that they, being the descendants of Ham, were cursed to servitude by their father, Noah. The Nation of Islam has indicted the Caucasian race for touting the belief, but has forgotten that it was used by the Moslems centuries before. How can Islam possibly be an alternative to Christianity when it has its own history of racist oppression in Africa?

The Sons Of Noah

According to the story, Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. This can be verified in Genesis 9:18. Everything from this point on becomes mythical, with respect to "the curse." It has been said that the three sons were of different races. This is impossible! What we see represented from the descendants of Noah are not races, but rather, nations. In fact, race was never used as a means of identification until the 17th century when Francois Bernier, a French physician, used race as a method of categorization for the first time. Very seldom are people in the Scripture ever identified by color (except when they are stricken with leprosy and called "white").

Another thing to consider that will destroy the myth of Noah's sons being racially diverse is the fact that Noah was the 10th generation descendant of the first man, Adam. As I stated in the first part of this series, Adam was a dark-skinned man who was placed in East Africa (the location of the Garden of Eden). Anthropologists believe that the racial diversity of mankind has come as result of migrations to less warm climates. Yet, we do not read of any migration of this direct line of Adam to Noah. That would mean that Noah, a direct descendant of Adam, would also have been Black and so would all three of his sons. The argument could be made that Ham means hot or heat. There could be a number of reasons why he was given such a name. Sometimes in the offspring of Black couples, there can be

diversity of hue (skin color), yet all of the children are still considered Black. There could have been other reasons as well, but it is certain that all of Noah's sons, whether darker or lighter, were Black.

What About A Curse?

Let's get one thing straight. There was absolutely no curse upon Blackness. If there was such a curse, Noah would have had to back up ten generations and curse his ancestors, curse himself, and curse all three sons if it had to do with blackness. In fact, there was no curse on Ham, the ancestor of the African Nation. Noah was drunk and naked in his tent. Ham saw his father and told his brothers of his father's nakedness. The other two brothers backed in and covered the nakedness of their father. When Noah awoke from his wine the Scripture says "...he knew what his younger son had done unto him...."

We must first understand the original translation of this Scripture. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic. There is no Hebrew word for "Grandson." Sonship can not only mean the immediate offspring, but it can refer to descendants generations later. Also, in this case, "younger" son should actually be translated as "youngest grandson." Ham was not the youngest son, he was the second eldest. Ham's youngest son was Canaan. Noah knew that his youngest grandson was the perpetrator. Some theologians believe this was a sexual encounter. How could

Noah have known that something had happened to him while he was unconscious unless there had been evidence, such as the passing of seed? At any rate, it could not possibly have been Ham because he simply informed his brothers of his father's drunken stupor. Noah said "Cursed be Canaan" (Genesis 9:25), the youngest grandson.

Ham had three older sons besides Canaan and they are still nations on earth today: Cush (Ethiopia), Mizram (Egypt), and Put (Libya). There are no descendants of the Canaanites left. In fact, one branch of the Canaanites ended up in Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 10:19) and was later destroyed by God for the same sins as were evident in their ancestor Canaan. If there was a curse on Blackness, why were none of the other sons affected? The answer is simple. There is no such racial curse!

In the next issue, we will discuss some of the persons and nations that, by today's standards of race, would be considered Black. You'll be very surprised!

Scott A. Bradley is Pastor of the Rivers of Life Inspirational COGIC located in the Chicago area. He is the author of several books and Chaplain of the World Champion Chicago Bulls Basketball Team. To contact him for speaking engagements or books, call (708) 681-1608 or (708) 544 - 9603.

CENTENNIAL SALUTES *Bishop O. T. Jones, Jr.*



YOUTH CONGRESS PIONEER/ NATIONAL CHURCH LEADER

He was born March 26, 1981 in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. It has been said of him that seldom has God given so much to so many through one individual. With Horatio Alger qualities, young Ozro T. Jones emerged as the valedictorian of his high school, after gaining a certain distinction among peers as a Latin scholar.

During a spiritual awakening under the ministry of the renowned Elder Juste Bowe in 1912, the youthful Ozro gave his life to Jesus Christ in his native town. During his momentous conversion experience, he is said to have heard a voice saying, "Go and evangelize the world." During this great spiritual awakening, a brother, Arthur and a sister, Elsie Jones Grier, formed a powerful evangelistic team.

Not only did Brother Jones matriculate in college, he also met the charming Neanza Williams of St. Louis, MO., whom he married in 1921.

The young Elder Jones evangelized and established eighteen congregations in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. In 1914, Bishop C. H. Mason appointed Elder Jones to head the National Youth Department, thus becoming one of its first leaders. In 1916, Elder Jones pioneered the authorship of YPWW literature, which achieved notoriety as one of the largest Pentecostal publications in the nation, a task he continued until 1962. Under Elder Jones' aggressive leadership, the Youth Congress was begun in 1928. Later achieving prominence as COGIC's largest convention, Youth Congress not only beckoned youth, but became the spawning ground for nearly thirty various youth ministries.

After a brief period of service in 1920 as Assistant Overseer of Oklahoma, Elder Jones was designated to serve a small congregation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It grew to exceed

1,000 members in his lifetime and now exceeds 3,000 under the leadership of his eldest son. Elder Jones watched his fledgling state grow after his appointment to the Bishopric of the commonwealth, from eleven churches to over two hundred (200).

Elder Jones had the distinction of having been the first of five Bishops consecrated by Bishop Mason in 1933 and was the last of the original five to enter eternal rest. In addition to being a trustee of the original corporation of the COGIC, he was appointed by Bishop Mason to a special commission created to assist our Founder in his waning years. With Elder J. E. Bryant, he co-edited one of the first official manuals containing our doctrine and constitution. A foundational work by the late Bishop E. R. Driver preceded the manual produced by Bishop Jones and Elder Bryant.

The Official Magazine of The Church of God in Christ

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The Whole Truth
MAY / JUNE 1997

**Women's Department Has
New Leader: Mrs. W. M. Rivers**

**Biblical Blackness: Identifying
Persons and Nations of Color**

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After the demise of our revered founder Bishop Mason in 1961, Bishop Jones was elected and proclaimed Senior Bishop of the COGIC in November 1962. His ministry was so vast and far reaching that few areas of the church's life were untouched by

him. He was revered by many as being exemplary of the authenticity attributed to his predecessor, Bishop Mason. He is perhaps best remembered as an outstanding bearer of the gospel; an organizer; an educator of Christian youth; a Christian family man

(six children, all members of the COGIC); a sainted character; and an humble, yet dignified, shepherd to the whole flock of God.

Bishop Jones' homegoing celebration was in the year of 1972.

TWIT

CENTENNIAL SALUTES

Elder F. C. Christmas

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Little is known regarding the humble beginnings of Elder F. C. Christmas, the first General Superintendent of the National Sunday School. Poor recordkeeping of demographic data, particularly as it concerned African-Americans, has resulted in a great loss of information on many of the early church pioneers. We may never know the exact birthplace or the names of the parents of the man fondly remembered as "Father Christmas." At the time of his death in 1955, Supt. Christmas was reported to be in his late eighties, which leads us to speculate his birth occurred sometime between 1865 and 1869. Supt. Christmas' involvement in the Church of God in Christ came about through the ministry of the Bosticks of St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1916, he began working with the National Church of God in Christ Sunday School Department. A fervent advocate of Christian education, he pushed for the improvement of the Sunday School. Supt. Christmas began using quarterly publications in the Sunday School; and, within two

months, many of the leaders of the church were in an uproar over his actions. These saints felt that the Bible should be the only literature used in their study. The furor was so great that Bishop C. H. Mason was asked to "judge the matter." Following a review of the quarterly publication, Bishop Mason commented, "I do not see anything wrong." Elder Christmas continued to use the quarterlies.

The following year, Professor James Courts, then principal of Saints' Industrial and Literary School, presented Elder Christmas to the National Convocation, thus, beginning the Sunday School Department's involvement in the convention. Following Mother Lizzie Roberson's suggestion that Elder Christmas become General Superintendent of the National Sunday School Department, Bishop Mason appointed him to that post in 1926.

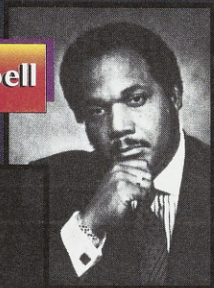
In the capacity of that position, Elder Christmas traveled extensively. He still met a great deal of opposition from many COGIC members who didn't agree with

the use of quarterlies. Some State Overseers refused to regard the appointments of state Sunday School superintendents made by Elder Christmas.

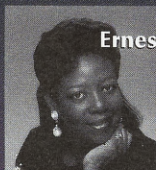
In spite of this opposition he remained firm in his resolve to advance, improve and unify the Sunday School Department. His use of quarterlies grew, perhaps, out of recognition for the need of a unified program of instruction throughout the Church of God in Christ. His efforts were not without supporters, including Elder D. J. Young, a Morehouse graduate, who published Sunday School literature in Kansas City, Kansas, and Bishop L. C. Patrick. (Bishop Patrick, appointed as Assistant Superintendent in 1938, served in this capacity for seventeen years and later succeeded Elder Christmas.) Children also provided a great source of encouragement for Supt. Christmas. He carried candy for the children in a shoe box and would share it with them following Sunday School - an act which earned him the name "candy shoes."

TWIT

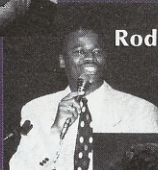
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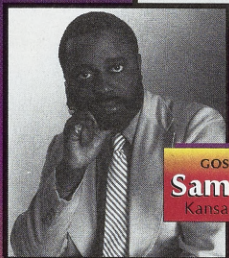


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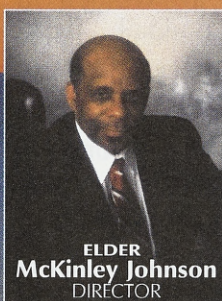
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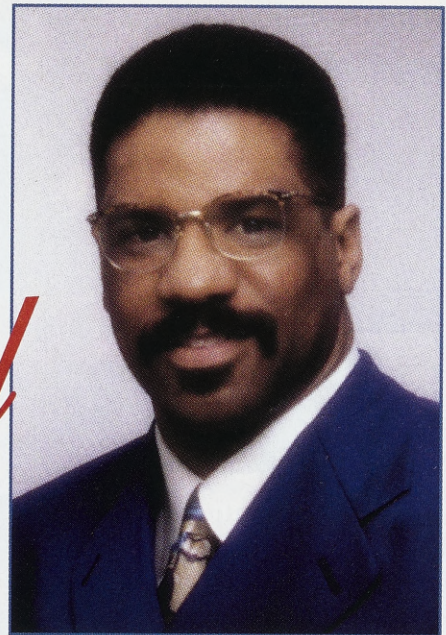
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Bishop Leroy Anderson

Jurisdictional Women's Supervisor
Mother Helena Akins

State Coordinator
Sis. Bobbi Simon

Convention Chairman
Pastor Rufus McGee

Profile of the Newly Appointed Youth Leader



ELDER J. DREW SHEARD

On May 24th of this year, the members of Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ hosted an inaugural celebration for their pastor, John Drew Sheard, who was recently named as President of the COGIC International Youth Department. The inaugural was held at the Westin Hotel in Detroit, Michigan. Elder Sheard was formally installed during the official inaugural of officers of the Church of God in Christ in Memphis this past April.

John Drew Sheard was born on January 1, 1959 to Bishop and Mrs. John Henry Sheard. Sheard has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in mathematics from Wayne State University.

Sheard served as Assistant Pastor of Greater Mitchell Church of God in Christ before his pastoral appointment (1989) by Bishop H. J. Williams, prelate of the North

Central Jurisdiction of Michigan. In 1993, Pastor Sheard was named as Superintendent of the Emmanuel District.

He has labored diligently in several positions in the church, including as choir director, chairman of local and state youth departments and as an Associate Editor of *The Whole Truth* newspaper. He has also served as a National Adjutant Overseer (Induction Chamber) - College of Bishops; Chief Adjutant, North Central Jurisdiction (Michigan); Executive Secretary, International Auxiliaries in Ministry (AIM) Convention; and as Special Assistant to Bishop H. J. Williams.

Married to Karen Valencia Clark since June 16, 1984, the Sheards are the parents of two children, Kierra Valencia and J. Drew, II.

Under Pastor Sheard's leadership, Greater Emmanuel has experi-

enced tremendous growth and success. His concern for lost souls led Sheard to initiate the Greater Emmanuel Television Ministry, as well as other creative and innovative methods to reach people of all ages. These include the formation of auxiliaries such as The Sisterhood Connection, YES (Young, Excited and Saved) Club, GEMS (Greater Emmanuel Men's Society), a "Women in Ministry" institute, and yearly conferences.

Recognized for his efforts to bridge the COGIC with other denominations and his genuine social consciousness, Elder Sheard's civic involvement includes serving as an Executive Board member of the Michigan Anti-Apartheid Council, Executive Director of the Michigan Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and as Area Supervisor for Michigan Youth Development.

A PERSPECTIVE OF A YOUTH LEADER

by J. DREW SHEARD

The Youth Leader of the Church of God in Christ must be accessible to other youth leaders and youth organizations. The leader must stay abreast of youth issues beyond the borders of our church to ascertain if these issues are applicable and/or congruent with our concerns. Every major organization finds a spot in their diverse programs for youth issues. The Church of God in Christ should take bold steps in facing the complex issues confronting our youth. First of all, our youth need leaders whom they can touch and relate to. This can be accomplished by the youth leader surrounding himself with sharp and intelligent people who have a heart for youth concerns, and by the organization of a summit meeting which would give the Youth President an opportunity to share his view of youth ministry. From this gathering, a Mission Statement, a Philosophy, and a Plan of Execution will be developed giving each person a clear understanding of the Youth Department's agenda.

How can the youth throughout the world be reached? The answer lies in youth rallies! The implementation of the rallies at the beginning of the year served to heighten the awareness of young people in crisis. They also allowed Jurisdictional Presidents and Chairladies an opportunity to display and demonstrate their

abilities to work in a concerted effort with the leadership. The continuation of these rallies will allow the Youth Department to execute a developed plan to reach the youth while building enthusiasm and awareness concerning the upcoming International Youth Congress. It will also give leadership and opportunity to scout talent throughout the borders of the Church of God in Christ. Seminars and workshops will play a vital role in this "reaching-out" process. The Youth Department should seek and obtain assistance from other organizations that share the view of saving our youth without compromising godly principles.

Realizing that young adults, as well as teens, are in crisis is a vital concern. The Youth Department must envelop this often "alienated" group by addressing subjects that confront them such as: interpersonal relationships, dating, parenting, marital concerns, and financial planning from a different perspective. We must meet the needs of the youth of the '90's!

From a financial perspective, the Youth Department should never be a financial burden to the church as a whole. The stewardship of the department should be pleasing to the leadership. Many grants exist and are available to help offset the costs of training,

seminars, etc., and resourceful people are available to explore these options.

As we approach the year 2000, the youth are bombarded with issues that only the church can give them the strength to face. The Youth Department and its many leaders must rise to this awesome task with God's help and reach these individuals.

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST YOUTH DEPARTMENT

VISIONARY GOAL STATEMENT

It is the goal of the Youth Department of the Church of God in Christ to enhance the lives of its members, both naturally and spiritually, thereby equipping them to successfully confront their present challenges, and those in the Year 200 and beyond.

This goal will be achieved by providing informative and innovative techniques via conventions, youth rallies, etc., designed to address the exigent issues concerning our youth, and their accompanying circumstances.

It is our intention to obtain assistance from government organizations created to focus on these societal concerns, programs that were previously overlooked or thought unattainable by the

DEPARTMENTAL PERSPECTIVES

Church of God in Christ, and to become a recognizable force in the present administration.

The leadership of the Youth Department will actively and aggressively seek out talent within the church necessary to bring these goals to fruition, while striving to build a financially solvent auxiliary of the Church of God in Christ, maintaining dignity, Christian purpose, and integrity.

PHILOSOPHY

The Youth Department of the Church of God in Christ will perpetuate an equipping ministry of excellence to prepare our youth for worldwide ministry. Each and every member of our department will function as concerned, skilled, youth leaders to carry out

the vision of this department, and enable our youth to live godly and fulfilling lives.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Youth Department of the Church of God in Christ is a vibrant, training auxiliary that exists to equip our youth with the necessary training to live a prosperous and victorious life in Jesus Christ.

This charismatic department will design, develop, and implement programs and ministry opportunities that meet the spiritual needs of the youth of our church. Rallies, workshops, and pertinent seminars will be tools used to effectively teach out youth how to apply the Word of God in their lives.

The International Youth Department will use innovative methods to insure that our youth become valued resources to their families, churches, and communities. We will teach them how to become self-sustaining productive citizens. This department will pursue financial resources that will allow us to cultivate opportunities for the church's young to become economically empowered and producers of jobs in the body of Christ, without compromising godly principles, thus, producing law abiding, outstanding youth to become agents of change in out church and society.

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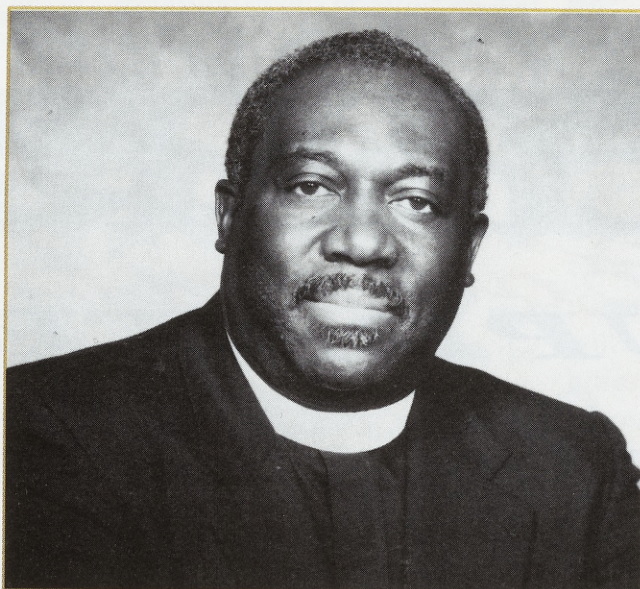
National PASTORS & ELDERS Council UPDATE

CONFERENCE '98
SCHEDULED FOR NASHVILLE, TN
MARCH 3 - 7, 1998

A recent interview with the newly elected International Chairman of the Pastors and Elders' Council, Superintendent Emanuel Newton, revealed the upcoming projections, ministerial opportunities and spiritual fellowship which will be available to the pastors and elders of our denomination in next year's conference. CONFERENCE '98 will be hosted by Chairman Emanuel Newton, Twelve (12) Regional Coordinators and the hosting jurisdictional bishops of Tennessee - Bishop H. Jenkins Bell, Prelate of Tennessee Eastern First Jurisdiction; Bishop J. M. Scott, Sr., Prelate of Tennessee Eastern Second Jurisdiction; Bishop G. E. Patterson; Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr.; Bishop W. L. Porter, Central Tennessee Jurisdiction; and Bishop Samuel Lowe.

THE COUNCIL'S OFFICERS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Chairman	Superintendent Emanuel Newton, Kansas City, KS
Elected Vice Chairman	Elder Thomas Hammonds, Oakland, CA
Chairman of Operations	Elder Isaiah Grover, Chicago, IL
Assistant Chairman of Operations	Elder William Mosby, Newport News, VA
National Secretary	Elder Edgar Barnett, Los Angeles, CA
National Treasurer	Elder James Slaughter, Oakland, CA
Financial Officer	Elder Herbert Purkett, Chicago, IL
Commissioner of Souvenir Journal	Elder Johnny Q. Jones, San Diego, CA
Commissioner of Concessions	Elder Harvey Lewis, Washington D. C.
Commissioner of Education	Dr. Alexander Lark, Bakersfield, CA
Commissioner of Registration	Elder Michael Eaddy, Chicago, IL
Commissioner of Transportation	Elder Timothy Bougknight, Springfield, Mass
Commissioner of the Judiciary Board	Elder Readus Smith, Memphis, TN
Tax Consultant	Elder Talbot Swan, Springfield, Mass
	Elder Alton Barnes, New Haven, CT
	Elder Joseph Shepherd, Chicago, IL
Regional Coordinator	Elder Harold Moore, Springfield, Mass
	Elder Walter Morrison, Washington, DC
	Elder L. Young, Seattle, WA
	Elder James Wright, St. Louis, MS
	Elder Readus Smith, Memphis, TN
	Elder D. L. Saunders, Indianapolis, IND



SUPT. EMANUEL NEWTON, CHAIRMAN

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SPIRITUAL AND PROGRAMMATIC PROJECTIONS FOR THE 1998 CONFERENCE?

CHAIRMAN NEWTON:

This year our focus shall be on projecting a spirit of unity across the brotherhood among our pastors and elders within the various cities and states. In addition, we want to enhance the existing relationships among the clergy of our denomination. We want to help undergird our Presiding Bishop by supporting and implementing VISION 2000 in our jurisdictional and local assemblies. To increase participation from every jurisdiction within the COGIC, we are asking each Jurisdictional Bishop to sponsor thirty (30) Registration and Conference Scholarships for their jurisdiction.

We want to encourage and inspire our clergy who are in training and who shall eventually join the ranks of our national council. Therefore, we will offer a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Mason Seminary. These funds shall be ear-marked for COGIC men who are in good standing with their local pastors and their jurisdictional bishops who are furthering their education in our seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

Pastor Newton also elaborated on the following goals of the Council:

• TO FOSTER UNITY AMONG THE BRETHREN OF OUR CHURCH

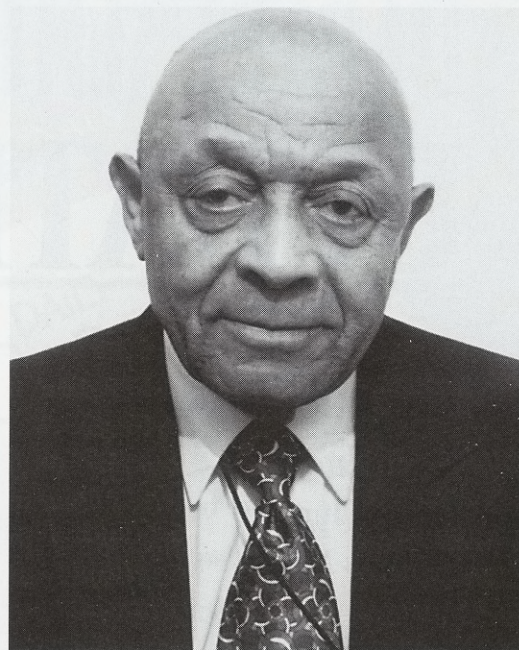
"We are offering opportunities for pastors and elders to communicate and share ministerial ideas which they can glean from one another and from our facilitators which will encourage and motivate them to return to their areas of ministry with a renewed sense of purpose and vision. During our conference we want to build relationships using "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1) as a scriptural foundation. These relationships will bring to bear a stronger sense of unity throughout the general council across the length and breadth of the Churches of God in Christ."

• TO PROVIDE MENTORING AND TRAINING FOR LICENSED MINISTERS

"The Pastors and Elders' council wishes to join hands with the Presiding Bishop's Vision 2000 and beyond by offering training and mentoring sessions for young ministers who aspire to be ordained and perhaps pastor someday. As a part of this mentoring session, we shall offer opportunities for the young ministers to be exposed to the National Council and its operational functions. In addition, they shall receive spiritual education and training on topics such as The Art of Being an Armourbearer; Subjection to Spiritual Authority; and Understanding The Vision of Your Pastor. These ministers must learn that they to assist and support



SUPT. ISAIAH GROVER
OPERATIONS COMMISSIONER



ELDER WALTER MORRIS
AREA COORDINATOR

the local pastor. That is in the purview of their direct training as future leaders.”

• TO INCREASE OUR EVANGELISTIC THRUST

“We shall have an evening of celebration and worship with our children and young people. This service will feature the many children and youth who come to our conference. It is our desire to minister to them during our conference. We are bringing in several Christian Athletes to speak to them and to share their testimonies with our young people. We shall host a Back Home Hour which shall provide opportunities for worship and celebration during our conference. As a part of our evangelistic thrust, we

shall be allowing our young ministers to share their expository gifts on Wednesday night from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.”

• TO STRENGTHEN THE FAMILIES OF OUR CLERGY

“We have special sessions during the day which are for the Pastors and Elders’ Wives. Our ladies come, share and network with other ministers’ wives from across this country. These special sessions have proven to be one of the highlights of our meeting. It is our desire to provide an opportunity for the minister and his wife to get away and to share some special time with one another during our conference.”

MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE



*Evangelist LuVonia Whittley,
President*

A.I.M. Convention Itinerary:

Pre-Musical

Sunday, June 29
Adams Mark

Consecration

Sunday, June 30
Carolina Mass Choir

Power Packed Classes
Midday & Evening Services
Late Night Musicals
Tuesday, July 1-Friday, July 4
Adams Mark

"Song is Born"
Saturday, July 5
Convention Center
Vice-President Dorinda Clark-Cole
Coordinator

Featured Artists

John P. Kee & New Life
Donald Lawrence & Tri-City Singers
Donnie McClurkin
Kim Burrell
Karen Clark Sheard
The Pace Sisters
Murphy Pace & Voices of Power
Kurt Carr Singers
Sisters
Timothy Wright
James Moore
Ruby Terry
Men of Standard
God's Property
Marc Cooper & Miami Mass Choir
Nu Joi
One Accord
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Gospel Music Review

SHIRLEY CAESAR

"A MIRACLE IN HARLEM"

WORD/EPIC

The "First Lady of Gospel Music" is joined by Hezekiah Walker's Love Fellowship Tabernacle Choir on this project recorded live in Harlem, New York. This recording marks another milestone in Caesar's long career. It also coincides with the release of her autobiography, "Shirley Caesar: The Lady, The Melody, And The Word", published by Thomas Nelson. Evangelist Caesar covers memorable favorites "This Joy", "Don't Drive your Mother Away", and "Sweeping Through The City", as well as new material, "God Keeps His Promises" and "you're Next In Line For A Miracle".

ANDRAE CROUCH

"PRAY"

QWEST/WARNER ALLIANCE

Andrae Crouch Hasn't missed a beat since his return to the forefront of gospel music. After winning the Grammy Award in 1995 for "Mercy", Crouch went to work with Helen Baylor and Donnie McClurkin on their respective solo projects. He also accepted the pastorate of his father's church, the Christ Memorial Church of God in Christ, in Pacoima, California. In spite of a hectic and rigorous schedule, he found time to return to the studio and complete his own project, which is entitled "Pray". It features eleven new songs displaying the musical creativity we have all come to know and expect from Andrae Crouch. Featured in this collection are "Love, I Thank You", "Early in the

Morning" (featuring Tata Vega), and "Come Closer To Me" featuring Kristle Murden (of "I'll Be Thinking of You" fame) on lead vocals. The combined choirs of Christ Memorial are also featured on "He Brought Me This Far".

WILMINGTON CHESTER MASS CHOIR

"FEAR NOT AIR"

The Choir that made famous such unforgettable songs as "Ride On King Jesus", "He's Preparing Me", and "Stand Still Until His Will Is Clear" return with a brand new recording worthy of attention. The CD opens with a stirring rendition of "Psalm 95", followed by Jeffrey LaWalley's "You Alone Are Worthy". Noted songwriter Donald Lawrence puts his trademark on the song "Say So" and Lecresia Campbell lends her voice to the title song, "Fear Not".

CARLTON PEARSON

"LIVE AT AZUSA 2 PRECIOUS MEMORIES"

WARNER ALLIANCE

Carlton Pearson once again delivers good old fashioned church music. As in his previous recording, Pearson focuses on hymns and congregational songs that are the foundation of music in the sanctified worship experience of old. Backed by the Azusa Mass Choir and the congregation, Carlton sings the standards, "Jesus, I'll Never Forget", "In the Morning When I Rise, and "We'll Understand It Better By And By". A number of gospel greats share in the service with Carlton on this project including Donnie McClurkin,

Beverly Crawford, David "Pop" Winans and Dorinda Clark-Cole.

LISA PAGE

"MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW"

CGI

Michael Brooks, whose production credits include Commissioned, Superintendent Drew Sheard's Greater Emmanuel Church of God in Christ Choir, and his new group, Michael Brooks and the Nation finally delivers on the long awaited debut solo release from Lisa Page. Lisa is no stranger to gospel music. She is one of the original members of the group Witness and has been featured on many recordings. On her own, she shows her versatility on both traditional and contemporary arrangements. Songs worth mentioning are "More Than You'll Ever Know", "Do It Again", "Jesus Will See You Through", and "Standing On The Promises". "Working Together" features Lisa and her daughters.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS WORTH MENTIONING

Bishop Ronald Brown

"Having Good Old Fashioned Church"

SUN MUSIC

Kurt Carr Singers

"No One Else"

GOSPOCENTRIC

Christopher Brinson

"What If God is Unhappy"

MALACO

Various Artists

"Live At The Apollo Theater"

VERITY

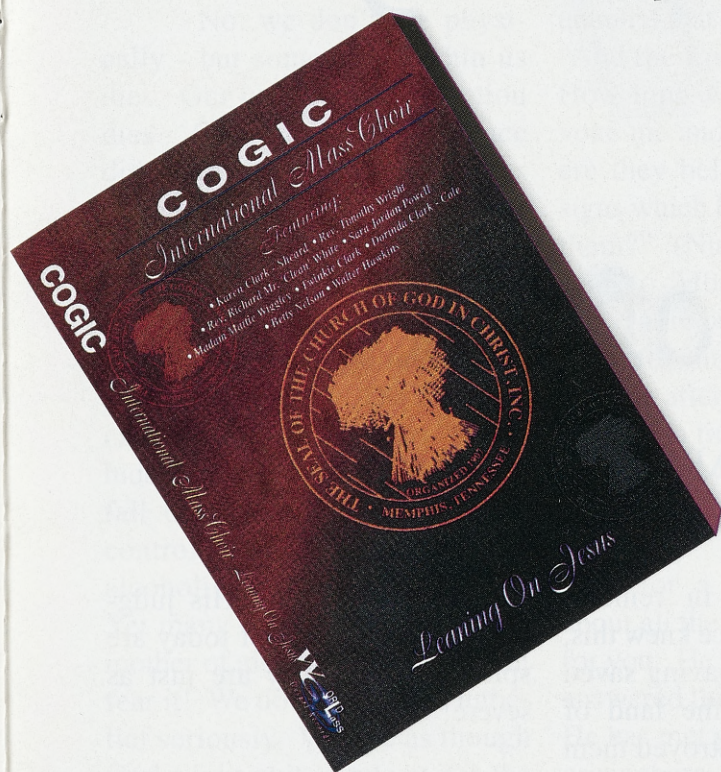
Milton Brunson/Tommies

"He's Still Good"

WORD/EPIC



Gospel Music Review



THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST INTERNATIONAL MASS CHOIR gears up to take over the gospel market place this summer with another explosive, power-packed, spirit-filled CD album. After garnering critical acclaim and charting *Billboard Gospel* charts for over 25 weeks with the previous release "*He'll Bring You Out*," executive producer/album producer, Moses Tyson, Jr., who is also a renowned organist of the church, and the former vice-president of Bellmark Records' gospel music division based in Hollywood, CA along with co-producer, multi-Grammy award winner, Edwin Hawkins, weigh in with another first-class production. The video was produced and directed by the Church of God in Christ public relations director, Pastor Brandon B. Porter of Memphis, Tennessee.

Under the direction of international music department president, Madame LuVonia Whittley, lead vocal "gospel greats" (Rev. Timothy Wright, Karen Clark-Sheard, Rev. Richard "Mr. Clean" White, Twinkie Clark, Sara Jordan Powell, Dorinda Clark-Cole, Betty Nelson, Walter Hawkins, and the late Madam Mattie Wiggley) blend in with the COGIC International Mass Choir to make this album, "*Leaning On Jesus*," a unique, hand-clapping, foot stomping, soul-stirring experience.

From the Minister's Study



The Mother of All Sins

By DAVID WILKERSON

ADAPTED FROM THE TIMES SQUARE CHURCH PULPIT SERIES

Part 1 of 2 part series

I could list for you a whole catalog of sins that believing Christians practice. But none of these sins would come near to the sin that I want to talk about. This sin is the mother of all sins--the one that gives birth to all others. It is the sin of unbelief!

I am not speaking of the unbelief of a hardened sinner. The unbelief of reprobates, agnostics and atheists does not move God at all. No, what angers God more than anything else is the unbelief and troubling doubts of those who call themselves by His name! Those who are His children - who say, "I am of Jesus" - and yet hold doubt, fear and unbelief in their hearts grieve Him more than all others!

How seriously does God take this sin of unbelief? Jude warned the church with these words: "I will

therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not" (Jude 5).

Jude is reminding them of God's attitude toward unbelief! He is saying, "I am bringing to your remembrance God's utter hatred for unbelief among His saved people. "Having saved the people, afterward He destroyed them that believed not!" (Jude 5).

Beloved, I believe God has called me today to put His church in remembrance of this same thing! Now all these things happened unto them for example: they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (I Corinthians 10:11). God may no longer destroy His people physically as He did in the

Old Testament. But His judgments on our unbelief today are spiritual - and they are just as severe!

Instead of being struck down, we die spiritually. Just look around today at the multitudes of doubting, struggling Christians who are dead spiritually. They are faltering, wavering, doubting, constantly fearing, never entering into the joy and peace of the Lord. They are no longer rooted and grounded - but instead are filled with unbelief and hardness of heart!

Unbelief is just as destructive today as it ever was. We may not turn into a pillar of salt - but we do become stiff-necked and bitter! The ground doesn't open up to swallow us - but we are swallowed by troubles, stress and family problems. Fire doesn't

From the Minister's Study

come down and consume us - but our spiritual life is destroyed!

No, we don't die physically - but something within us dies. Our love dies. Conviction dies. Conscience dies. Peace dies. Hope dies. All the things that make our walk with Jesus sweet die because of the sin of unbelief!

Because of our unbelief we fear all kinds of sins. The Puritans called these "bosom sins," those hidden within. We're afraid we'll fall back into habits that once controlled us - lust, fornication, alcoholism, gambling, adultery. Yet many of us are guilty of the mother of all sins - and we do not fear it! We do not take our unbelief seriously. We live as though God winks at it. And yet it is the one sin that opens our body and spirit to every other sin known to mankind!

Let me give you four reasons why this sin of unbelief is so dangerous - and why God so despises it in His people:

1. OUR UNBELIEF MAKES GOD A LIAR!

"He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his son" (I John 5:10). Consider all the ugly sins listed against Israel in the wilderness: murmuring, complaining, idolatry, unthankfulness, rebellion,

sensuality. yet none of these provoked God's wrath. It was their unbelief that angered God!

"And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?" (Numbers 14:11). God said to Moses, "These people make a lie out of everything I've done for them! I've performed miracle after miracle - I've delivered them time after time. When will they ever trust and rest in Me?"

Stop for a moment and think about all the things God has done for you: He has kept you. He has answered this prayer, that prayer. He has met you in a crisis here, a crisis there. He has brought you through trials, fed you with manna from heaven, done things for you that are nothing short of miraculous. Yet now, as you face yet another crisis, do you still not trust Him to see you through? Perhaps you think, "But this time it's worse. I've never been in anything like this!?" Oh yes, you have! Every crisis you've been in has required His miraculous provision - and He has delivered you time after time!

Each time He delivers you, He hopes that in the next crisis you'll be relaxed and ready, praying, "Father, I turn this over to You. I am not going to fret or worry because You have delivered me

every time. And I know You'll deliver me now!"

For thirty-eight long years Israel forgot God's Word and dismissed out of mind His miracles. And because they fell back so often into murmuring and unbelief, God said, "I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them" (verse 12). He told Moses, "I'm, giving up on My people - because they never will come to the place where they trust Me!"

When Israel was on the victorious side of Jordan, Moses made a solemn declaration. He said: "Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it...fear not, neither be discouraged.... Dread not, neither be afraid of them. The Lord your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you.... "Yet in this thing ye did not believe the Lord your God...And the Lord heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying, Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers..." (Deuteronomy 1:21-35).

Beloved, God, magnifies His Word above His name. He means every word He says. And all of these things God told Israel are the same things He has told us. I ask you - will we not also incur His wrath if we act in unbelief? Paul wrote: "...God, (who) can-

From the Minister's Study

not lie, promised [life eternal] before the world began" (Titus 1:2). And the author of Hebrews wrote: "...it is impossible for God to lie, [so that] we might have a strong consolation..." (Hebrews 6:18).

Today God says to us clearly, "I can and I will." Yet how do we respond to His Word? We immediately question Him! "Can God do it? Will He do it?"

We read His Word and hear all His promises from the pulpit. But then we go to our corner and fret because we don't see Him immediately doing what we think He should do for us. We are loaded with doubt and unbelief!

- The power and authority to ask anything in Jesus' name. Power over sin. Power over Satan. No weapon formed against us shall prosper.

- Access to the Father. A throne to run to in the hour of need. Deliverance from overwhelming temptations. Continual manifestations of the presence of Jesus.

- Rest by simply asking and trusting. Peace beyond all human understanding. Freedom from fear all the days of our lives. Abundant life. He's promised it all to us!

Yet still so many Christians live in fear, doubt, confusion--always fretting. They don't believe Him

or appropriate His precious Word. They act as though He never made such promises!

The truth is, we have much less reason to doubt and fear than our forefathers did. Our enemies today aren't the Hittites and Jebusites--they are stress, fiery temptations of the flesh, weariness of body and mind, a violent and complex society, new and subtle evils that no other generation has faced. Yet God has promised us that where sin abounds--no matter how subtle or powerful it is--we have more grace to do battle with it, than any other generation in history!

Paul said of the Jews: "...because of unbelief they were broken off..." (Romans 11:20). And he warns us today:

"Be not high-minded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off" (verse 20-22).

Hebrews also warns us: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12).

It doesn't matter how holy or righteous you think you are. If you do not have faith in the living

Word--abiding in it, assimilating it, making it a part of your life -- then you are in danger of departing from God!

Search the Bible and see --- there is not one example of God sparing unbelief! He judged it in every one of His children, in every generation.

Start with Eve, who doubted the truth of God's commandment in the Garden. Then go to the nobleman who was trampled to death for not believing God's word that starving Samaria would be flooded with food the next day. Go to Zacharias, John the Baptist's father, who was struck dumb for not believing God's word to him. Then go to this judgment in Jesus' day: "And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matthew 13:58).

There has never been an instance when God excused unbelief -- and He is not going to wink at it in these last days! (To be continued in next issue.)

(David Wilkerson, best known for his book and subsequent movie, The Cross and The Switchblade, is an end time prophet of God who has traversed the world with the Gospel of Christ. His church, Times Square Church, in New York continues to reach thousands through his unique method of ministry).

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Professor Francine Fulton, Ph.D.

Creative Non-Fiction:

Dr. Larry G. Britton, Editor-in-Chief, The Whole Truth Magazine

Critical Essays:

Dr. Alonzo Johnson, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina - Columbia

Eligibility

Only book-length manuscripts are eligible, defined as: Poetry, 20 page maximum text; Short Fiction & Creative Non-Fiction, 200 maximum pages; The Novel, 450 maximum pages; and, Critical Essays, 100 maximum pages.

The ACLA is open to COGIC authors writing original works in English. No mixed genre man-

uscripts or literary criticism accepted. The ACLA defines creative non-fiction as factual literary writing that has the narrative, dramatic, meditative, and lyrical elements of novels, plays, poetry, and memoirs. Previously published poems/stories in periodicals are eligible for submission, but manuscripts previously published in their entirety, including self-published works, are not eligible. As the Award is judged anonymously, no list of acknowledgments should accompany submissions. Should a judge deem no manuscript excellent or worthy of the award, no winner will be chosen in that genre. You may submit to other publishers while under consideration, but the ACLA must be notified immediately if the submitted manuscript is accepted elsewhere.

Entry Requirements

Entry fee of \$10. Make checks or money orders payable to the COGIC Publishing Board.

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for notification that the entry has reached the ACLA. Notification will include your log number for the competition. Please use this number when corresponding with the ACLA.

Do not include an envelope for manuscript return. No manuscripts will be returned. Do not include your original manuscript.

Send one copy of each manuscript entered, prepared according to the following Manuscript Format guidelines.

Manuscript Format Guidelines

All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced on good, quality paper. Poetry manuscripts must be single-spaced. Only photocopies or copies from letter quality printers (i.e., ink jet, laser jet) are acceptable.

Each manuscript must include a cover page with the author's name, address, phone number, and manuscript title. The cover page will be removed so that each submission can be read anonymously. There should also be a title page, on which only the title should appear. If the author's name appears anywhere except the cover page, the manuscript will be disqualified. Please do not send acknowledgment of previous publications or a biography of the author at this time.

Deadline and Correspondence

Manuscripts must be postmarked between May 1, 1997 and July 31, 1997. Manuscripts postmarked after July 31, 1997 will not be considered or returned. All manuscripts and correspondence should be sent to:

**First Annual COGIC Literary Award
ATTN: Mrs. Glenda Goodson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1044
Cedar Hill, TX 75106**

Urgent queries only, call (972) 227 - 9451.

From the Counselor's Couch

"EVER GREEN...EVER GRATEFUL"

(READ I THESSALONIANS 5:18, EPHESIANS 5:20)

An evergreen is always green despite the changes in weather around it (stormy, fair, rainy or calm). It is green in the heat of summer as well as the cold of winter (snow, ice or sleet). So also our lives are to be characterized by an enduring thankfulness that is unaffected by the changes or people around us. When the blazing heat of a pressured week or the deadly cold of pain strikes us, we should stand "ever green...ever grateful," regardless of that which surrounds us.

"In everything" and "for everything"; are these phrases a summation of God's will for husbands and wives? Is this the epitome of Christian maturity in our relationships, both vertical (toward God) and horizontal (toward each other)? "For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus...." It is our fervent desire for the enabling Holy Spirit to bring us to this stage of Christ-like development in our marriage. However, what God wills us to do, He provides the means for us to accomplish.

Being thankful in everything and for everything is tantamount to "doing all things without murmuring and disputings" (Philippians 2:14). What a peaceful marital affinity to live in! Likewise, I Corinthians 10:6, 10-11 says, "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we

should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted...Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

From his cell in Rome, Paul gives three directives on how to always be thankful in and for everything. First he admonishes us to Be thankful for the people who have helped us (Philippians 1:2-5). Paul was thankful for the Philippians' help in making the gospel known, and for the church's financial assistance and prayers. A good place for us to start is with our spouses.

Time would not permit, nor is there space to list and describe all of the people who have helped us. Among the many who come to mind are: our parents who birthed us into the world, nourished us in our infancy; taught, corrected and provided for us in the later years of our lives. Moreover, many of them were examples of what they taught us. Space is allotted here for those who taught us how to read both secular



Pastor & Mrs. Harvey Lewis

and sacred literature; employers and medical professionals (people who provide for us a better quality of life, and in some cases even extend life); pioneers in our church; civil rights workers; freedom fighters; and yes, even the men in the street who extended a helping hand. We are ever grateful for the men and women who inspired us to work hard at developing our natural and spiritual abilities, and motivated and encouraged us to stand and face the challenges of life; thankful for the people who have helped us.

I dare not conclude this list without including, and thanking God for my mean mother-in-law, who is at home with Jesus. How mean was she? She was so mean that she carried Gloria (now my wife) to Sunday School, church services and meetings, activities that were church or

From the Counselor's Couch

community related, many times against her (Gloria's) desire. "Red Oak" (in North Carolina) is an Indian name for "Nowhere". But God chose it as the place of our birth and childhood rearing, for which we are thankful. Saturdays in Red Oak were times for "chilling it" (smile) in Rocky Mount. But my mother-in-law was so "mean" that after a long, hard work week, she did not permit Gloria to enjoy her Saturdays as many of her peers did. Instead, Gloria spent her Saturdays washing clothes in an outdoor wash pot, and using God's sun, air and ropes for her dryer; mending socks and dresses; white washing fireplaces, sweeping yards, and any work that would keep her busy at home, rather than spending Saturdays on Douglas Corner (the meeting place). My mother-in-law was so "mean" until she would not allow me to keep company with Gloria until she was 15 years of age. When I was allowed to carry Gloria to church, basketball games, picnics, etc., my mother-in-law was so "mean" that she made sure that her husband went along to chaperone. Consequently, because of her "meanness," she gave me a lovely wife who loves God and her family, and who provides the best of care for them, including well balanced meals, a clean home and moreover a godly example as a wife, mother, church leader's wife, grandmother and saint of God. I gained all of this largely because of my "mean" mother-in-law. Although my mother-in-law has been deceased for more than 20 years, many of the things that Mother Lewis does or does not do today are because of what her grandmother instilled in her during childhood. How I thank God for my "mean" mother-in-law!!

Paul reminds us to thank God for the people who have helped us. Then he teaches us to be thankful for the people who have hurt us (Philippians 1:12-19). George Matheson, the well-known blind preacher of Scotland, now with the Lord, says: "My God, I have never thanked Thee for my 'thorn!' I have thanked Thee a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my 'thorn;' I have been looking forward to a world where I shall get compensation for my cross as itself a present glory. Teach me the glory of my cross; teach me the value of my 'thorn'. Show me that I have climbed to Thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow."

Some of the brothers preached Christ because they were jealous of how God was using Paul. Others preached to make Paul jealous, thinking that their success would add to Paul's sorrows there in jail. But whatever their motive for preaching the gospel, Paul rejoiced knowing that it all would turn out for good.

Be thankful for the people who have hurt you!! Have you experienced a failed marriage? Are you now in a relationship that is causing you pain? How about that deserved promotion that went by you; that trusted friend who disappointed you; terminal illness; the loss of a loved one; financial difficulties; children who lost their way; a well planned project that fell through? Join Paul and many other biblical characters. Paul said all of this will turn out for my good, therefore, I will rejoice. James writes "Count it all joy...!" Again Paul said, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." So, thank God

for the people and the things that have hurt you. We probably have a deeper prayer life, a greater love for the Word, and a living experience of the power of God at work in our lives because of some of the things and people that have hurt us.

If we are going to be thankful in all things and for all things, Paul says we must be thankful for the people who have helped us, for the people who have hurt us, and.... be thankful for the things we don't have, but hope to possess. Romans 8:32 says, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" My understanding of this verse is that God has provided everything that we will ever need for our Christian journey. Appropriation of these provisions is realized through obedience to and faith in the Word of God.

•A recommended prayer for implementing God's directives regarding being thankful for the people who have helped us, being thankful for the people who have hurt us, and being thankful for the things we don't have but hope to possess is:

God has answered every question;

God has addressed every concern;

God has solved every problem;

God has met every need.

Thank you Lord for meeting my need;

Thank you Lord for sending Jesus to meet my need;

Thank you Lord for using my faith to meet my need;

Thank you Lord for being all that I need.

TWT

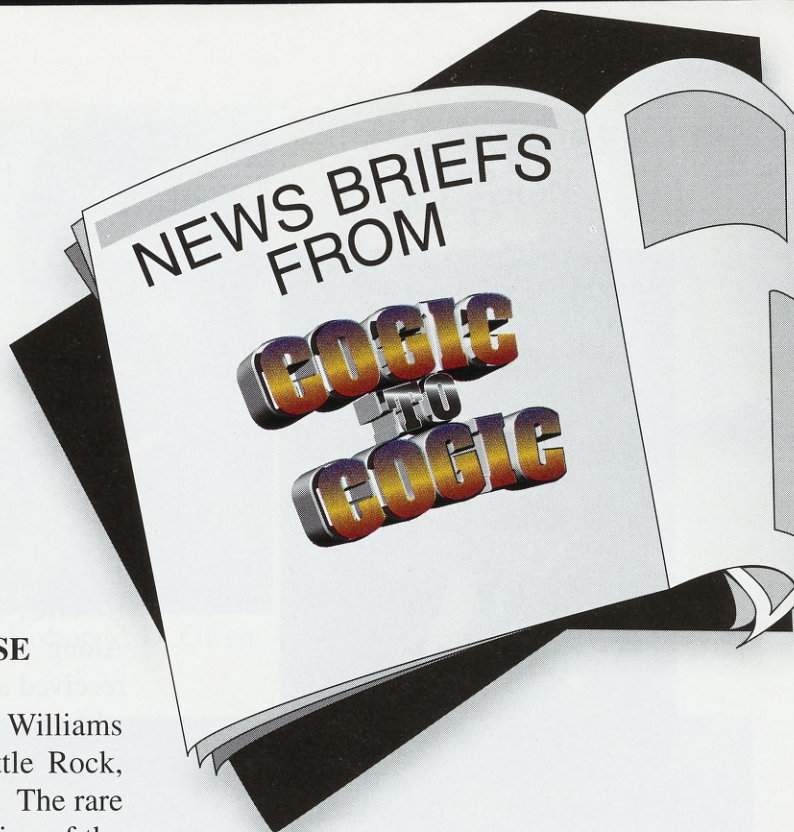
ARKANSAS (LITTLE ROCK)

COGIC MINISTER REPORTS HEALING FROM RARE DISEASE

Roy Johnson, an Associate Minister at Williams Temple Church of God in Christ in Little Rock, reports his healing from dermatomyositis. The rare disease, which causes arthritic inflammation of the muscles, nearly immobilized Minister Johnson recently.

Shortly after his admission to the hospital for treatment on December 30th, the minister began to "Roy Johnsonize" his room. A collector of inspirational quotations, Minister Johnson had soon covered the walls of his room with cards, photos and clippings. The collection kept Minister Johnson motivated and also motivated the staff and other patients. Minister Johnson also held "revival" prayer services in his room for friends and hospital staff. One nurse commented "He's been an inspiration to all of us. He's lifted our spirits and preached, and kept us going."

Minister Johnson reports that he is now healed, but feels his illness had a purpose. Says Johnson "I was so sick, but they saw how I maintained my faith in God. God did not allow this to make me bitter, but to make me better. I'm better because of it. I'm a new man because of this outpouring of love from family and friends and my fellow employees." Minister Johnson commends the staff of St. Vincent's, from the housekeeping and food services departments to the doctors and nurses of 3NW, the floor where Johnson was admitted. Concludes Minister Johnson, "Your life is God's gift to you. What you do with it, is your gift to God."



FLORIDA

(GAINESVILLE)

COGIC RESEARCHER AWARDED BY STATE LEGISLATORS

Sherry DuPree was awarded the 1997 Black Achiever's Award in Religion by the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators. DuPree and eight other winners received their awards at a special ceremony held at the Black Caucus Gala in April of this year. The awards honor African-Americans for significant contributions to advancing social policies which benefit African-Americans.

DuPree's research concentrates on the history of gospel music and the history of the African-American Pentecostal religious movement. A librarian at Santa Fe Community College, DuPree is also founder of the Rosewood Forum and has consulted with the Florida Department of State to produce a recording of African-American gospel steel guitar music. DuPree has received funding from the Smithsonian Institution, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the University of Florida, Nationwide Insurance, IBM and the National Council of Churches.



Rance Allen Lee

PENNSYLVANIA (VERONA)

LEE GRADUATES FROM WEST POINT

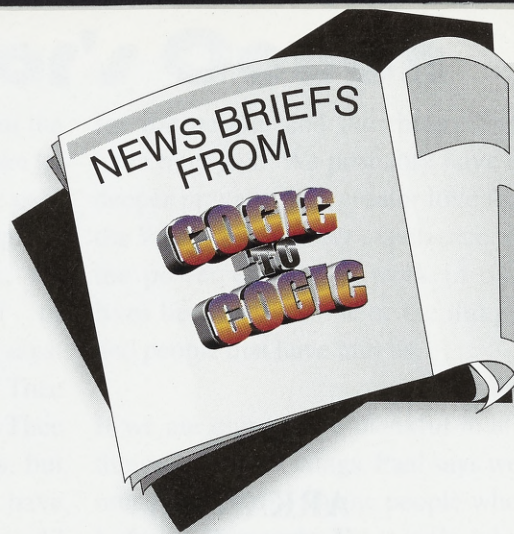
In a follow-up to one of the first COGIC to COGIC news briefs reported in The Whole Truth, Ozette & Joan Lee relate that their son, Rance Allen Lee, has graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Commencement exercises were held on May 31st.

Ozette Lee is an Associate Minister at First Church of God in Christ, Pittsburgh, pastored by Bishop G.E. Vaughn.

TEXAS (ORANGE)

TEEN CROWNED IN NATIONAL PAGEANT

A COGIC teen was crowned the winner in a national pageant held recently in Orlando, Florida. LeKisha Gentry, member of Washington Temple



COGIC, is the 1997 National Miss Junior Teen. Along with numerous other prizes, Gentry also received a \$10,000 scholarship. Gentry was selected from among 108 other contestants in the week-long competition.

Gentry is a student at Community Christian High School in Orange. She is an honor roll student and has been recognized by the United States Achievement Academy as one of America's most outstanding honor roll students. Gentry has served on her school's student council for two years and has served as a People to People Student Ambassador to New Zealand and Australia. She is the daughter of Willis and Doris Gentry.

(REKLAW)

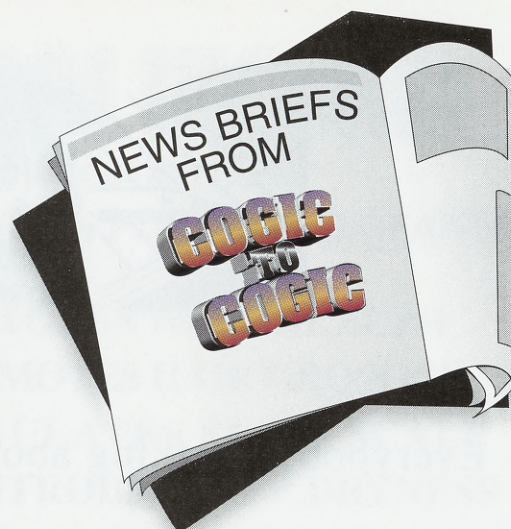
CHURCH BURNING TURNS INTO BLESSING FOR COGIC CONGREGATION

An unexpected blaze which completely destroyed the Shady Grove Church of God in Christ has turned into a blessing for the pastor and congregation. The fire happened some time during the early morning hours of what was to be the final day of a four-day revival at Shady Grove. An elderly couple living next door discovered the fire.

Reports Elder Donnie Timmons, pastor of the congregation for eight years, "The Lord has blessed us with a larger church." The church is completely furnished. Further, "...we were also blessed with a church van. We have the deed to the church and the title to the van." The van was donated by Rusk, Texas, realtor, Joe Anderson.



Bishop W. J. Chambliss and Presiding Bishop C. D. Owens



(Left to right) Prophet Aubrey Shines; Carolyn Shines; Mother Irene & Bishop W. J. Chambliss

INAUGURAL OF BISHOP WILLIE J. CHAMBLISS HELD IN EVERGREEN, ILLINOIS

The Martinique Dury Lane Banquet Hall, Evergreen, Illinois, was the setting for the March 31st inaugural dinner held in honor of Bishop Willie J. Chambliss. Chambliss was consecrated as prelate of the Illinois Midwest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. Guest speaker for the event, Presiding Bishop Chandler D. Owens, left the 600 guests in attendance standing, following his address "The Iron Did Swim."

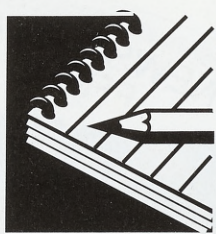
During the gala, Bishop Chambliss was presented with the Eagle Award by his oldest son, Elder

Kelvin Chambliss; the Governor's Award, presented by State Representative Eugene Moore on behalf of Illinois Governor Jim Edgar; and, the Presidential Award, given by Congressman Danny Davis on behalf of President Bill Clinton.

Bishop Chambliss, and his wife, Missionary Irene Chambliss are the parents of five (5) children.

Together, the Chamblisses have brought Miracle Revival Center COGIC from a store-front ministry to a \$1.5 million dollar edifice. The 1,200 seat facility was built in 1991 following a devastating fire in 1989. Among Miracle Revival Center's many arms of outreach are ministries focusing on marriage, drug/alcohol addiction & prevention, those in penal institutions and youth.

TWT



From the Readers: Letters to the Editor

Everybody's talking about the all new **Whole Truth** magazine!!

Read what attendees of the 1997 International Women's Convention in Philadelphia, PA had to say about the **The Whole Truth Magazine**!!

Mother Clarice H. Williams
New Horizon COGIC
Maxton, NC

I am now a District Missionary and have been in the COGIC all of my life, sixty-nine (69) years. As a child I ordered and sold **The Whole Truth News**. Now a drastic change has been made, and we have such a beautiful magazine. I really thank God. "I love it" and most people I have shown it to really love it also.

Missionary Shirley A. Hill
12 Amity Drive
Camilles, NY 13031

I am very happy and impressed with our **Whole Truth** magazine. I terminated my subscription with **Ebony** and applied that money to my **Whole Truth** subscription. I proudly display **The Whole Truth** magazine in my home, so that people will pick up the **Whole Truth** as they do the **Ebony**!

Vivian Brice
8327 Ralfe Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

I wish to congratulate the grand old COGIC for the great improvement of **The Whole Truth** magazine. I know you will soon be "the voice" of the religious community with God's blessing.

Emma J. Clark, Librarian
McGlothen Temple COGIC
14443 Filbert Street
Richmond, CA 94801
(510) 529-0369

I enjoy **The Whole Truth**. The new format is great and the articles are well-written and informative. It is a great asset to the Dr. Mattie McGlothen Library Museum.

The Whole Truth welcomes your letters and comments. Please address correspondence to Letters, **The Whole Truth**, P. O. Box 78613, Nashville, TN 37207-8613 or fax your letter and/or comments to (615) 299-9307. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



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